

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A suspended platform for suspending an appliance from a plurality of support members which depend from overhead beams and structures of a building, comprising:

a lower frame having a base with side walls extending from the base and joined to form a fluid tight container, the base having sufficient strength to support the appliance thereon when the lower frame is suspended from the support members and the entire weight of the appliance is carried only by the base when the appliance weighs about 500 pounds or more; and

at least three connectors each fastened to at least one of the side walls and base, each connector being configured to removably fasten to a different one of the support members.

2. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, wherein the at least three connectors comprise connector means for passing the support members through a portion of the lower frame.

3. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, wherein the side walls of the lower frame form a plurality of corners, and the connectors comprise tubes located at those corners and connected to the side walls, the tubes being sized to allow passage of the support members.

4. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, wherein the connectors comprise tubes located at corners of the side walls, the tubes being sized to allow passage of the support members.

5. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, wherein the base is rectangular.

6. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, wherein the base is rectangular with a connector at each corner.

7. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of the connectors each comprises two flanges each fastened to a different sidewall.

8. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, wherein the base is rectangular and wherein a plurality of the connectors each comprise two flanges each fastened to a different sidewall at the corners of the base.

9. (Withdrawn) The suspended platform of Claim 1, wherein the connectors each have a plate extending over the base, the plate having a hole sized to allow passage of one of the depending support members.

10. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, further comprising at least three support members in the form of depending threaded rods, and wherein the connectors each have a plate extending over the base with a different one of the rods extending through each hole, and with an upper nut threadingly engaging the rod above the plate and a lower nut threadingly engaging the rod below the plate to position the connector between the nuts.

11. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, further comprising at least four depending support members arranged in a rectangle, the support members each having a distal end fastened to a different one of four connectors.

12. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, further comprising at least four depending support members arranged in a rectangle, the support members each having a distal end fastened to a different one of four connectors, and two diagonal brace members extending between and fastened to diagonally opposed support members above the location of the appliance and above the lower support frame.

13. (Withdrawn) The suspended platform of Claim 12, further comprising an upper frame having four sides with the diagonal members fastened to diagonally opposed corners of the upper frame.

14. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 12, wherein the depending members comprise threaded rods.

15. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 12, wherein the depending members comprise threaded rods each having a distal end fastened to a different one of the connectors by a threaded connection.

16. (Withdrawn) The suspended platform of Claim 1, further comprising at least one strap having opposing distal ends each of which is configured to fasten to a different one of the depending support members during use of the suspended platform.

17. (Withdrawn) The suspended platform of Claim 1, further comprising at least three depending support members each fastened to a different one of the connectors, and at least two adjustable length ties fastened to one of the lower platform or depending support members.

18. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 1, further comprising a drain fitting on one of the side wall or base.

19. (Currently Amended) A kit for suspending an appliance from a plurality of support members which depend from overhead beams and structures of a building, comprising:

a lower frame having a base with side walls extending from the base and joined to form a fluid tight container, the base having sufficient strength to support an appliance thereon weighing about 500 pounds when the lower frame is suspended from the support members and the entire weight of the appliance is carried only by the base; and

at least three connectors each fastened to at least one of the side walls and base, each connector being configured to removably fasten to a different one of the support members.

20. (Withdrawn) The kit of Claim 19, wherein the lower frame is a rectangle with the connectors located at each corner, and further comprising an upper frame having four sides with the diagonal members having openings through which the depending support members can pass during use of the support members.

21. (Original) The suspended platform of Claim 19, wherein the at least three connectors comprise connector means for passing the support members through a portion of the lower frame.

22. (Withdrawn) The kit of Claim 9 further comprising at least one strap having opposing distal ends each of which is configured to fasten to a different one of the depending support members during use of the suspended platform.

23. (Withdrawn) The kit of Claim 9 further comprising at least two adjustable length ties having one end configured to fasten to one of the lower platform or depending support members.

24. (Withdrawn) The kit of Claim 19, further comprising a plurality of threaded fasteners sized to fasten a plurality of the connectors to depending threaded support rods during use of the kit.

25. (Currently Amended) The kit of Claim 19, further comprising at least two diagonal braces each having distal ends configured to fasten to the depending supportmembers.

26. (Currently Amended) The kit of Claim 19 further comprising a drain fitting on one of the side wall or base.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of suspending an appliance from a building having an overhead support, comprising:

depending at least three support members from the overhead support;

providing a lower frame having sidewalls and a base and at least three connectors joined to form a waterproof container with the base having sufficient strength to support the

appliance when the frame is suspended from the connectors and the entire weight of the appliance is carried only by the base;

fastening each of the connectors to a different one of the depending support members and adjusting the position of the lower frame relative to the depending supports to level the lower frame; and

placing the appliance on the base.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein there are four depending supports arranged in a rectangle, and further comprising forming the lower frame in the shape of a rectangle and locating the connectors at the corners of the rectangle.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein there are four depending supports arranged in a rectangle, and further comprising fastening a brace member to diagonally opposing depending supports.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein there are four depending supports arranged in a rectangle, and further comprising fastening a brace member to diagonally opposing depending supports and fastening the brace member to the appliance.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein there are four depending supports arranged in a rectangle, and further comprising fastening a strap to two depending support members, with the strap encircling at least half of the appliance.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the depending support members comprise threaded rods and the lower frame is adjustably fastened to the depending support members by threaded fasteners connected to each rod.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein a drain fitting is installed on one of the side wall or base.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein the drain fitting is attached to piping having an outlet in a location removed from the lower frame.

35. (Currently Amended) A suspended platform for suspending an appliance from a plurality of support members which depend from overhead beams and structures of a building, comprising:

lower frame means for supporting a base on which an appliance weighing about 500 pounds or more rests during use of the suspended platform and for cooperating with the base to form a waterproof container;

connector means on the lower frame means for connecting the lower frame means to the support members.

36. (Currently Amended) The suspended platform of Claim 35, wherein the lower frame means has corners and the connector means comprise tubes fastened at corners of the lower frame means, the tubes being sized to allow passage of the support members.

37. (Withdrawn) The suspended platform of Claim 36, wherein the lower frame means has a plurality of corners each formed by two adjacent side walls, and the connector means include corner braces fastening to two adjacent side walls with the corner braces being connected to a further part that connects to one of the support members during use of the suspended platform.

38. (Currently Amended) The suspended platform of Claim 36, further comprising an upper frame connected to the support members during use of the suspended platform, for stabilizing the suspended platform.

39. (Currently Amended) The suspended platform of Claim 38 36, further comprising upper frame means for fastening to the appliance during use of the suspended platform.